

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2006 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Galvin, Lee, Rische, Santome, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan, Project Manager Sedadi, Planning Assistant Suree, and Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5a. **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2005**

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved for the approval of the December 5, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Santome seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

6A. **ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Commissioner Ulrich nominated Chairperson Lewis for a second term as Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. Chairperson Lewis nominated Commissioner Santome for the position of Chairperson.

Chairperson Lewis was elected for a second term as Chairperson.

Commissioner Santome nominated Commissioner Ulrich for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. Chairperson Lewis nominated Commissioner

Santome for Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Tsao nominated Commissioner Lee for Vice-Chairperson; Commissioner Lee withdrew his name from consideration.

Commissioner Santome was elected to the position as Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission.

6B. **PARKING RESTRICTION MODIFICATION REQUEST ALONG 176TH STREET EAST OF VAN NESS AVENUE**

Transportation Manager Semaan introduced the item and distributed supplemental material consisting of additional correspondence received after the agenda packet was prepared.

Planning Assistant Suree provided background information and analysis of the request to implement parking prohibitions between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. except by permit and the creation of a permit parking zone. He stated that after conducting several field inspections and license plate surveys, staff could not find a significant parking intrusion problem or an overriding justification to recommend the parking prohibitions. He requested that the Commission accept public input and concur with staff's recommendation to deny the request and maintain current parking restrictions.

Commissioner Santome received clarification that a license plate survey was conducted in the morning and afternoon of December 13, 2005 and that properties located at 17440 and 17450 Van Ness Avenue are apartment buildings.

In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, staff explained that a non-area resident was someone who did not live in the immediate area.

At Chairperson Lewis' request, Transportation Manager Semaan reviewed the City's policy on permit parking systems. He explained that existing permit systems were implemented as the result of overflow or conflict between local commercial businesses and nearby residential properties. He stated that the item under consideration was between one type of residential property vs. another type of residential property, noting that there are no permit parking systems in the City restricting apartment dwellers from parking on residential streets.

At 7:15 p.m., Chairperson Lewis welcomed public input.

Sherry Jenkins, 176th Street, noted that no surveys were conducted on Saturdays or Sundays. She stated that she was unable to put her trash bins out for Monday morning trash pickup due to cars parked in front of her house and that her family cannot park in front on her house when they visit.

Responding to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that staff has not received any complaints from the streets/waste removal departments for this specific location. He noted that Public Works Department, due to numerous complaints, was currently considering trying to combine trash pickup and street sweeping on the same day throughout the City.

Bert Roberts, 176th Street, concurred with Ms. Jenkins' comments, adding that his street never gets swept on Tuesday mornings due to parked cars.

Thomas Reyes, 176th Street, expressed concern about diminished quality of life and discussed recent problems on his street that include liquor bottles on his lawn, a truck parked for more than 72 hours, an increase of trash, stolen newspapers, difficulty getting in and out of driveways, and lack of space to put out trash bins.

Shamiro Sato, 176th Street (no speaker card), received clarification from staff that apartment residents were not allowed to park on private property located at Van Ness Avenue and Artesia Boulevard.

Commissioner Ulrich stated that he visited the location on two evenings and noted that there were approximately 15 parked cars each time, most facing or adjacent to Van Ness Avenue. He stated that he understood the residents' concerns, but did not see a severe parking problem in this area, noting that other City streets were much more impacted. He expressed support for a policy where trash pickup and street sweeping were on the same day.

Commissioner Galvin stated that she visited the location yesterday morning, and commented that the apartment buildings were built before residents had multiple vehicles per family. She stated that the apartment residents had no alternative but to park on the streets, adding that this is a problem throughout the City due to increased growth and development.

Commissioner Santome stated that he also visited the location and made similar observations as Commissioners Ulrich and Galvin, noting that he was supportive of combining trash pickup and street sweeping days. When he inquired if the apartment buildings were in compliance with required, free parking spaces for their tenants, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that he would check the Conditional Use Permits for the two properties.

Commissioner Rische noted that most of the problem was at one end of the street. When he suggested that notices be put on the parked cars, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that this could not be done because it was a public street.

Transportation Manager Semaan clarified that there was no parking intrusion from employees or patrons from local commercial businesses.

In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that he did not know the timeframe for the proposal to combine trash pickup and street sweeping days, noting that it would be a substantial cost to the City.

Chairperson Lewis stated that he did not see sufficient problems in this area to justify implementing a permit system and suggested more aggressive parking enforcement.

Commissioner Ulrich, with Commissioner Rische concurring, proposed that a pilot program to combine trash pick up and street sweeping day on 176th Street be implemented prior to the entire City. Transportation Manager Semaan offered to relay the suggestion to the Public Works Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to concur with staff's recommendation to maintain current parking restrictions along 176th Street east of Van Ness Avenue. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion. The motion passed as reflected in the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioners Galvin, Lee, Lewis, Rische, Tsao, and Ulrich.
NOES: Commissioner Santome.

Transportation Manager Semaan reviewed the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6c. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE UPDATE OF THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE'S GENERAL PLAN

Project Manager Sedadi reported that tonight's meeting was a continuation of the December 5, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting where staff presented an update on the Citywide Traffic Study and the Commission and public provided input regarding the Circulation Element update. She introduced Bob Matson and Paul Martin from RBF Consulting who provided information about traffic analysis models prepared for the City.

With the aid of a slide presentation, Vice President Matson reported that the model produces the level of service at an intersection, using the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Emerald Street as an example. He showed Existing Conditions that represent the number of vehicles going through the intersection, turning left, and turning right. He stated that the data of input and output relates it to a volume to capacity ratio of .61 and Level of Service B. He discussed a future scenario of Existing Conditions plus Approved Projects to show added volumes as a result of all near term projects that have been approved. Additional trips added to the existing volumes increased the volume to capacity ratio to almost .73 and Level of Service C. He explained the Intersection Geometry exhibit that shows the number of lanes at an intersection.

Responding to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Project Manager Sedadi stated that, based on the current General Plan, the threshold for the City is Level of Service D, or approximately 80% volume to capacity ratio.

In response to Commissioner Rische's inquiry regarding the wait time at a signal for Level of Service C, Vice President Matson advised that it would vary, noting that the City does not base its level of service on delay but rather on volume to capacity ratios.

Transportation Manager Semaan added that generally under Level of Service C the wait time would not be more than a single cycle at an intersection.

Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the State has jurisdiction over Hawthorne Boulevard, but that the City uses threshold numbers in line with the Congestion Management Program under Los Angeles County. He noted that staff needs to use quantitative measures to forward complaints to Cal Trans.

Vice President Matson presented a slide showing Existing Conditions plus Approved Projects plus General Plan Buildout where the resulting volume to capacity

ratio increased to .95 and Level of Service E. He stated that this would be considered a deficient intersection and an impact analysis would identify mitigation, such as adding an additional lane, to bring it down to an acceptable level of service. He showed that if right turn lanes were added on the east and west bound approaches, the Level of Service would decrease to .79.

Project Manager Sedadi added that there would be a traffic model for all intersections of the City, and that the City could ask for dedications from developers to build additional lanes.

Project Manager Sedadi introduced Project Manager Diana Gonzalez from P&D Consultants who gave a presentation on the Circulation Element of the General Plan.

Project Manager Gonzales provided a brief summary of the purpose and objectives of the Circulation Element, noting that it was last updated in 1992. She requested that Commissioners and public provide additional comments that will be used to update and refine the element. She stated that ideas should be forward thinking for the next 15 to 20 years and input should include goals and policies, new issues, and ways to make the current element a more effective document.

Project Manager Sedadi welcomed James Mills, Kim Turner, Eddie Harris, and Aram Chaparyan from Torrance Transit System to address suggestions from the December 5, 2005 meeting.

Administration Manager Mills advised that Torrance Transit System was prohibited from engaging in school bus operations, exclusively transportation of students and school personnel.

Referring to the suggestion to have a centralized transit terminal, Acting Operations Manager Chaparyan stated that a line-by-line analysis identified that 90% of patrons walk only two blocks or less, and that 50% do not need to walk at all to transfer. He noted the current system allows them to make all the connections around Del Amo Mall as well as major streets in the City. He stated that at present the bus system was small enough to maintain all connections without having a centralized terminal.

In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, Acting Operations Manager Chaparyan stated that he did not know if the new mall development would have a centralized terminal.

Responding to Commissioner Rische's inquiry, he stated that 20% of their patrons are Del Amo Mall employees and approximately 20% are patrons who go to the mall to shop.

Transit Director Turner added that there was no space in the City for a terminal, even away from the Del Amo Mall.

In response to Commissioner Santome's inquires regarding future ridership and partnerships, Transit Director Turner stated that their goal was to continue to enhance the service to improve ridership, noting that it has increased 5% over the past year. She stated that they have 53 buses and were not planning to purchase any new vehicles.

She stated that plans include outreach to seniors, students, and educating employees and residents about the system.

Responding to Commission Ulrich's inquiry regarding routes, Transit Director Turner advised that their funding was based on mileage.

Administration Manager Mills provided information about federal, state, and local funding as well as reserve service areas, noting that 60% of their routes were outside the City. He added that Torrance Transit Systems attends rideshare programs and is starting a bus buddy program that would allow seniors to increase their mobility.

In response to Commissioner Lee's inquiries regarding bus utilization and smaller buses, Administration Manager Mills advised that Line 3 buses have 90% capacity. Transit Director Turner stated that they were restricted from purchasing any new vehicles and are looking at alternative fuels for the future.

When Commissioner Tsao suggested increased outreach, Administration Manager Mills advised that information about Torrance Transit Systems was available on the City's website, on CitiCable, and 1-800-COMMUTE.

The Commission was in recess from 8:35 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Transportation Manager Semaan distributed copies of the current Circulation Element.

Project Manager Gonzalez advised that the focus of tonight's meeting was Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs, noting that there would be additional opportunities for input.

Comments from Commissioners were recorded as follows:

- *Maximize usage of City-owned public parking. Look at where to put more parking; double-deck parking structures.*
- *Maximize required parking; change parking ratio for new developments.*
- *RV parking requirements for high density developments.*
- *Require dedication for bus terminal.*
- *Synchronize trash pick up/street sweeping to regulate parking at those times.*
- *Railroad land to integrate "red car" system; get it out of public right of way.*
- *Review parking standards for developments and businesses.*
- *Real time traffic updates – T.V., Internet (Intelligent Transportation System).*
- *Incentive for "green" vehicle/walking/bicycling/using public transit.*
- *Review policy for parking of commercial vehicles.*
- *Parking policy for businesses to reduce neighborhood intrusion.*

At 9:07 p.m. Chairperson Lewis welcomed public input.

Arthur Evans, Arvada Street (no speaker card), stated that two possible locations for a bus terminal are at Madrona Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard as well as 208th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. He noted that the flow of traffic has improved at Hawthorne Boulevard and Emerald Street.

Gladys Meade, League of Women Voters of Torrance, read, submitted, and entered into record a letter from the League of Women Voters of Torrance. She stressed the importance of addressing traffic issues at well-publicized, local community forums as well as changed circumstances in state and regional assistance dealing with congestion due to State Budget reductions and fund borrowing, citing the Congestion Management Program. She discussed the Air Quality Management District, the California Air Resources Board, Regulation XV of the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan, and the California Environmental Quality Act process of review.

Commissioner Santome stated that it was important for staff to give the Commission and public an honest appraisal of the Circulation Element.

Transportation Manager Semaan urged Commissioners and residents to take the current Circulation Element home with them and to highlight anything they would like modified or added.

Responding to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Ms. Meade stated that the League of Women Voters had a good distribution system and would be willing to help in any way they could to publicize a meeting, and suggested that homeowners associations also be contacted.

When Commissioner Ulrich suggested that a community meeting date be planned for March 2006, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that he would check with City Clerk Herbers about available dates and locations.

Commissioner Galvin suggested that an announcement be placed in the Daily Breeze.

Robert Feldman, Cathann Street, suggested that pass through traffic be addressed in the update.

Dee Hardison, 236th Street, proposed that a brief survey be sent out to residents asking for input regarding their traffic concerns.

Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, stated that it was difficult for most residents to see the broad scope of the Circulation Element and not just the traffic problems that most affect them.

Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, suggested that the update address pedestrian safety, noting that skateboards and bicycles are often ridden on sidewalks.

Richard Perkins, Christine Avenue, referring to Policy 4.1, suggested that new as well as modified developments be required to accommodate project-generated parking demand on-site. He suggested that compact spaces be eliminated as a policy. Referring to Policy 2.5, he suggested that construction lane closures on major streets be on a fee basis. He discussed the City's policy of using level of service as a measure of traffic efficiency and suggested that coordinated traffic flow was also important.

At Chairperson Lewis' request, Transportation Manager Semaan provided information regarding the measure of delay methodology and collaboration with Los Angeles County on signal synchronization.

Don Clouch, 238th Street, expressed concern about the volume of pass through traffic and speeding on 238th Street.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, discussed the problems ambulances have maneuvering their vehicles on City streets. She proposed that construction on private properties be prohibited on Sundays and noted that many drivers talk on cell phones. She suggested that an advertisement soliciting input be placed in the Daily Breeze.

7. **ORALS**

7A. Transportation Manager Semaan encouraged Commissioners to attend the Traffic Engineers Commission Workshop 2006.

7B. Staff and Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Galvin to the Commission.

7C. Commissioner Rische expressed concern about the use of “bureaucratese”, the complicated nature of the issue, urbanization, and the narrowing of lanes by the Cities of Palos Verdes Estates and Lomita.

7D. Chairperson Lewis discussed safety concerns due to parked buses on 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.22 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to March 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted March 6, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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